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UNITED NATIONS

WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Yokohama, Japan
23-27 May 1994

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

Draft report

Rapporteur-General: Mr. Klaus E. P. HOLDERBAUM (Germany)

Chapter I

ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the Conference

1. The World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/188 of 21 December 1993. During that period the Conference held ___ plenary meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The following States were represented at the Conference:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Central African Republic
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Panama
Papua New Guinea

Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

3. The following associate members of the regional commissions were represented by observers:

British Virgin Islands
Niue
Palau

4. The secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia was represented.

5. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented:

United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Volunteers
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
United Nations University

6. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Fund for Agricultural Development
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
World Bank
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Meteorological Organization

7. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee
Asian Development Bank
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
Central American Parliament
Council of Europe
European Community
Inter-American Defense Board
Inter-American Development Bank
Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
International Civil Defence Organization
International Maritime Satellite Organization
International Organization for Migration

League of Arab States
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Organization of American States
Pan American Health Organization
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
South African Development Community

8. The following other organization was represented:

National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

9. A large number of non-governmental organizations attended the Conference.

C. Opening of the Conference

10. The Conference was declared open by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

11. The Conference heard a video presentation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

12. The Conference heard an address by His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan.

13. The Conference also heard addresses by His Excellency Mr. Yoneo Hirata, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and by His Excellency Dr. Hidenobu Takahide, Mayor of the City of Yokohama.

D. Election of the President

14. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May 1994, the Conference elected, by acclamation, as President of the Conference, His Excellency Mr. Nobutoshi Akao, Ambassador for Global Environmental Affairs and International Trade of Japan.

E. Adoption of the rules of procedure

15. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.172/2 and Corr.1) as recommended by the Preparatory Committee in its decision 2 of 18 March 1994.

F. Adoption of the agenda

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda (A/CONF.172/1) as recommended by the Preparatory Committee in its decision 4. The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.

2. Election of the President.

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Election of officers other than the President.

6. Organization of work, including the establishment of committees.

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

8. Activities for natural disaster reduction.

9. Programmes and policies of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction:

   (a) Regional reports;

   (b) Public- and private-sector interface.

10. Natural disaster reduction:

   (a) Vulnerable communities;

   (b) Hazard-resistant structures;

   (c) Effects of disasters on modern societies;

   (d) Interrelationships between technological and natural hazards;

   (e) Economic aspects of disaster reduction for sustainable development;

   (f) Warning systems;

   (g) Drought management.

11. Outcome of the Conference, including a plan of action for natural disaster reduction.

12. Adoption of the Report of the Conference.

G. Election of officers other than the President

17. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference elected, by acclamation, Vice-Presidents from the following regional groups:

Asian States: Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal and Philippines

Eastern European States: Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Slovakia
Latin American and Caribbean States: Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago

Western European and Other States: Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy and the United States of America.

18. At the same plenary meeting, the Conference elected, by acclamation, the following ex-officio Vice-Presidents: the Chairman of the Special High-level Council, the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Chairman of the Preparatory Group of the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Conference and "the Father" of the Decade, Mr. Frank Press.

19. Also at the same plenary meeting, the Conference decided that His Excellency, Mr. Klaus E. P. Holderbaum of Germany, who had been elected Vice-President of the Conference, would also serve as Rapporteur-General of the Conference.

20. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference elected, by acclamation, Burundi, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, Vice-Presidents of the Conference, from the African States.

21. At the same meeting, the Conference elected, by acclamation, His Excellency Dr. Omar Dario Cardona, National Director for Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness of Colombia, Chairman of the Main Committee.

H. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

22. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, in conformity with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the Conference decided to establish a Credentials Committee composed of Austria, Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States of America.